

Reading Log

Description

A Reading Log with reader's comments and personal responses reflects accumulated reading accomplishments. Reading Logs are often required elements of school portfolios and mandated in state curriculums. Log pages should be kept in the classroom files.

Accurate Reading Logs are diagnostic tools for teachers, providing data of reading patterns and levels. Students can utilize Reading Logs as a tool for comparison, an outline for studying, or a method of activating prior knowledge.

Steps

1. Provide the students with several Reading Log pages. Students translate the number of pages into reading expectations.
2. Explain the type of reading that is to be recorded. It is useful to ask students to record reading in other subject areas as well.
3. Define *comments*. Comments should be a brief reaction to the work with reasons. To differentiate instruction, give a range of questions the students may use to form comments, such as the following scaffolded questions:
 - What did you like or dislike about the main character?
 - What did you learn from the main character?
 - Would you read this book again? Why or why not?
 - If you could talk to the author, what would you suggest be changed in the book? Why?
 - If you were a publisher, would you have published this book? Why or why not?
4. Designate 5 to 10 minutes a week to update Reading Logs. This should be on the same day at approximately the same time so that logging becomes part of the students' routine. Updating logs serves as a reminder to students of their reading accomplishments for the week and can be used as a summary activity.

Check that the Reading Logs are returned to their designated classroom storage area at the end of each session.

5. Periodically write phrase comments on the Reading Logs so students are aware that you are checking their logs. Comments need not be lengthy or time consuming.